GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3378
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
TELECOM SERVICES IN HILLY/FARFLUNG AREAS
Chandel Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the services in the rural, hilly, farflung and border areas especially the difficult terrains of Himachal Pradesh are not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that telephone exchanges sanctioned by the Department of Telecommunications in farflung areas have not been set up;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether target has been fixed by the Government to provide telecommunication facilities to all the villages of the country; and

(f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to achieve the said target?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) On the basis of key performance indicators such as fault rate, trunk efficiency and fault repair etc. in comparison with national averages, it is seen that there is no deterioration of services in Himachal Pradesh including the maintenance of telecom services in far flung/remote areas of H.P. Telecom Circle. The achievement in respect of various performance parameters are given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) No exchange, planned by Department of Telecom for rural areas is pending for commissioning. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning to deploy Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology exchanges in a big way, covering each Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) in the country. In addition, the wireline rural exchanges in far flung areas are being provided at places having a minimum demand of 150 within 5 Kms. radius of the proposed exchange site.

(e) & (f) The office of Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into an agreement with BSNL for providing village public telephones in 66,822 unconnected villages by November, 2007. This excludes villages lying in thick forest, naxalite infested area or having less than 100 population. Out of 1,002 uncovered villages in HP, 139 have been provided with VPTs as on 30-06-2005. The balance 863 villages will be covered by November, 2007.

Annexure

1. Achievement in respect of performance parameters of Telecom Services in All India and Himachal Pradesh Circle during the year 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (1st Quarter) in respect of performance parameters

Sl. No.	Parameter In %	Achievement in 2001-02		Achievement in 2002-03		Achievement in 2003-04		Achievement in 2004-05		Achievement in 2005-06 (1st Quarter)	
		All India	H.P	All India	H.P.	All India	H.P.	All India	H.P.	All India	H.P.
1.	Fault rate	11.6	10.90	9.90	10.10	8.4	9.90	7.60	10.10	7.10	9.61
2.	Trunk Efficiency	86.1	79.20	86.70	77.10	88.4	81.90	89.10	91.70	87.30	86.50

3. CCR										
Local	57.95	55.57	57.40	48.80	57.86	55.95	59.89	60.74	59.53	57.30
Junction	47.32	27.77	46.40	31.00	47.88	37.06	54.18	35.58	54.45	38.73
STD	38.30	28.94	38.30	28.70	40.57	32.93	43.70	32.38	47.39	33.80
4. Fault repair										
Same day	65.50	81.00	70.50	81.70	75.78	78.98	77.30	81.80	77.10	83.20
By next day	85.80	94.50	88.00	92.30	90.29	95.19	90.20	95.50	90.30	94.70
Within 7 days	97.40	99.80	97.90	99.90	98.23	99.89	98.70	99.70	97.60	99.90
5. Repeat faults	1.50	1.27	0.99	0.23	0.87	0.12	0.58	0.06	0.59	0.05

2. Fault rate, fault clearance by next day and within 7 days of Himachal Telecom Circle in Rural/Urban for the year 2004-05 and for the 1st Quarter of 2005-06.

Sl.No.	Parameter	2004-05		1st quarter (2005-06)	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1.	Fault rate	10.45	9.95	9.96	9.26
2.	Fault clearance				
	By next day	93.07	97.87	93.38	95.96
	Within 7 days	99.42	99.91	99.73	99.98

3. Problems/constraints in provision / maintenance of Telecom. Services in far flung/remote areas of H.P. Telecom. Circle,

(i) Adverse weather condition like heavy rain fall/snow fall/and slides/storms/flash floods etc.

(ii) Lightening prone areas.

(iii) Low voltage problem in remote areas

(iv) Lack of approach roads/road blockades due to inclement weather during monsoons/winters.

(v) Due to hilly/difficult terrains, out door network is mostly overhead and actual distance to be covered for fault rectification by road/on foot is much more than the aerial distance.